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To: RMV Business Partners

Date: October 15, 2019

RE: License Plate Inquiries

License Plate Prefix- Matching the Physical Plate to the System of Record

In the RMV's current system, ALARS, there are a number of registration plates where the registration number displayed on the license plate **does not** match the registration number in the system or as printed on the certificate of registration. These license plates do not have the two - four character prefix on the physical plate but the prefixes are used in the RMV's system and are on the certificate of registration.

Of the 5.8 million active Massachusetts registrations this affects approximately 175,000 (about 3%).

ATLAS System Improvement

The registration **number** in ATLAS will match what is printed on newly issued registration certificates and reflect the **number** embossed on the plate. This change will take place as part of conversion to the new system. The new ATLAS system allows you to inquire with or without the prefix and receive an accurate response.

Examples of the System Transition Issue

Today searching for a registration using the physical plate number creates a challenge for our business partners doing plate inquiries if they do not know about the license plate prefix, especially for those partners who use electronic plate readers. When processing an inquiry, unless the prefix is included in the inquiry, the relevant registration will not be found. Below are several examples of plates with this issue.

The Camper plate is recorded in ALARS as AHN **CA3873D**, where "AHN" is the plate type (AutoHome), and "CA" is the prefix.



Using the Camper plate as an example, an inquiry on AHN 3873D or 3873D (because the inquirer does not know the plate type) will not return the registration information expected. To successfully inquire on this plate today, the “CA” prefix printed on the certificate of registration must be included in the inquiry.

The Veteran plate is recorded in ALARS as PAS VTZ851.



The Disability plate is recorded as PAS HP94BD in ALARS.



Note that neither the **prefix** (CA, VT, HP, etc.) nor the plate **type** (AHN, PAS, HP, etc.) is on the physical plate

Impact to Business Partner Inquiries

The greatest impact on users will be increased success of obtaining a registration record using only the registration number as embossed on the registration plate or the certificate of registration.

We realize that some business partners may have saved the vehicle registration data returned by the RMV in their internal system. **The new ATLAS system allows you to inquire with or without the prefix and receive an accurate response.** For the examples above, whether you inquire using AHN CA3873D or AHN 3873D; PAS VTZ851 or PAS Z851; or PAS HP94BD or PAS 94BD, you will receive a response for the same registration. To ensure the most accurate response, it is necessary to include the plate type (e.g., AHN, PAS, etc.).

We have compiled a list of 56 different plate types that currently have prefixes that are being converted to ATLAS without the prefix. This list notes the ATLAS plate description, the plate type, and the prefix. This list can be found in Appendix A of this document.

NEW Service Endpoint

The RMV will provide a separate service endpoint that will allow partners to look up a registration and will return both the registration number that is stored in ATLAS as well as the LEGACY registration number that was stored in ALARS. **Insurance companies that are interested in access to this service may email the ATLAS Interfaces Team at DOT-DL-ATLAS-Interfaces-R2@dot.state.ma.us** Requests need to be made either prior to **October 25, 2019 or after December 2, 2019.**

How Does the Plate Prefix Change Affect Me?

1. When I process an inquiry that includes the previous plate prefix, what will I receive as a response?
 - A. The response record, regardless of the inquiry method used (portal, web service or batch), will contain the registration record as recorded on ATLAS, i.e., without the prefix.

2. I am a non-renewal user, will this change affect my existing marks in anyway? Will it affect the way I have to process mark or clear transactions?
 - A. No, this will not affect your existing marks or the way you process mark and clear transactions. The mark process will accept and correctly process registrations with or without the plate prefixes.

3. I am an insurance company, will this change affect any of my policy records or the processing of add/delete vehicle transactions?
 - A. No, this will not affect your existing policy records or the processing of add or delete vehicle transactions as the add/delete process will work correctly with registration input records with or without the plate prefixes.

4. I have saved the vehicle registration data returned by the RMV in my internal system and use this for my day-to-day processing. Do I have to undertake a special process to convert all of these records?
 - A. No, you do not have to undertake any kind of conversion to continue to communicate back and forth with the RMV. However, since the RMV response records will always have the record as saved on ATLAS (i.e., without the previous prefixes), you could encounter match issues with the data maintained on your internal files. For example, the response record for any inquiry will contain the registration record without the

prefix, which, without some special processing on your end, will not match your previously saved registration record.

5. Will the RMV be replacing all of the registration documents when this change is made?
 - A. No. The RMV will not replace the registration documents. The certificate of registration will match the letters/numbers on the physical plate once the customer processes a registration transaction after November 12, 2019 (e.g. a renewal, duplicate, or amendment).
6. If I am a business portal or eServices user, will I be able to inquire on these records with and without the prefix?
 - A. Yes, the business and eServices portals will accommodate inquiries both with and without the prefix. The response records will always reflect the registration number without the prefix.
7. If I decide to convert all of my existing records to your new format, are there any of the 56 cases that might result in duplicate records?
 - A. Yes, there are. It is really important to maintain the three character plate type as there are many duplicate plate numbers. Within the PAS plate type, there are five cases that could cause duplication issues.
 - Antique plates (PAS AN1234 now PAS 1234)
 - Handicapped plates (PAS HP1234 now PAS 1234)
 - National Guard plates (PAS NG1234 now PAS 1234)
 - Purple Heart plates (PAS PH1234 now PAS 1234)
 - Veteran plates (PAS VT1234 now PAS 1234)

Additionally, Hearse plates (currently CON or COR HR1234 now CON or COR 1234) could also match to existing CON and COR plates that are straight numeric.

- B. For each of these, the RMV is maintaining a plate subtype internally to distinguish them. The RMV would recommend not undertaking the effort to convert your files at this time, largely because of this issue.
8. Where can I direct questions about the plate prefix change?
 - A. Please direct questions to: DOT-DL-ATLAS-Interfaces-R2@dot.state.ma.us

Appendix A

Plates with prefixes that will not be converted			
Plate Description	ALARS Plate Type	Prefix	Category
Ambulance	AMN	AMB	Ambulance
Animal Ambulance	AMN	ANI	Ambulance
Ambulance Reserved	AMR	AMB	Ambulance
Antique Motorcycle	MCR	ANMC	Antique
Antique	PAS	AN	Antique
Antique Vanity	PAS	AN	Antique
Bus Normal	BUN	BU	Bus
Bus Reserved	BUR	BU	Bus
Camper Normal	AHN	CA	Camper
Camper Reserved	AHR	CA	Camper
Disabled Parking	PAS	HP	Disability
Disabled Vanity	PAS	HP	Disability
Mass Bay Transit Authority	ATN	MB	Government
Transit Police	ATN	MDCP	Government
Transit Police Motorcycle	AXN	MBTM	Government
Municipal Disabled	MVN	HP	Government
Municipal Fire	MVN	MF	Government
Municipal Police	MVN	MP	Government
Motorcycle Municipal	MXN	MMC	Government
Emergency Vehicle	PAS	EMR	Government
Environmental Police	STN	EP	Government
State Police	STN	SP	Government
State Vehicle	STN	ST	Government
Environmental Police Motorcycle	SXN	E	Government
Motorcycle State Police	SXN	SPMC	Government
State Motorcycle	SXN	STMC	Government
Hearse Normal	CON	HR	Hearse
Hearse Reserve	COR	HR	Hearse
National Guard	PAS	NG	National Guard
News Photographer	PAS	NP	News Photographer
Governor's Council	PAS	GC	Officials
Honorary Consular Corps	PAS	CONS	Officials

House	PAS	HOUS	Officials
Mass Senate	PAS	SENAT	Officials
U.S. Congress	PAS	USC	Officials
US Senate	PAS	USS	Officials
School Bus Normal	SBN	SB	School Bus
School Bus Reserved	SBR	SB	School Bus
School Pupil Disabled	SPN	HP	School Bus
School Pupil Normal	SPN	SP	School Bus
Semi-Trailer	SMN	SM	Semi-Trailer
Semi-Trailer Reserved	SMR	SM	Semi-Trailer
Bruins (Renew Only)	PAS	BRUIN	Sports
Celtics (Renew Only)	PAS	CELTS	Sports
USA Olympic team	PAS	USA	Sports
Taxi Normal	TAN	TA	Taxi
Taxi Reserved	TAR	TA	Taxi
Congressional Medal of Honor	PAS	CMH	Veteran
Disabled Veteran	PAS	DV	Veteran
Ex-POW	PAS	XPOW	Veteran
Legion of Valor	PAS	LV	Veteran
Pearl Harbor Survivor	PAS	VTP	Veteran
Purple Heart	PAS	PH	Veteran
Veteran Plate	PAS	VT	Veteran
Year of Manufacture (Motorcycle)	PAY	MC	